

2. (Amended) Sound shielding element according to Claim 1, wherein said sound shielding element is adapted to cover sound-reflecting and/or generating structural parts.

3. (Amended) Sound shielding element according to Claim 1, wherein said panel has a thickness between 0.05 and 4 mm, and wherein the average diameter or average width is between 0.01 and 0.7 mm and the hole/surface ratio is between 0.01 and 5 %.

4. (Amended) Sound shielding element according to Claim 1, wherein said panel or layer is made of polypropylene.

5. (Amended) Sound shielding element according to Claim 1, wherein said perforations are configured as narrow or fine slots having width between 0.02 and 0.18 mm and a length between 0.02 and 30 mm.

6. (Amended) Sound shielding element according to Claim 5, wherein said slots have width between 0.08 and 0.15 mm and slot length between 0.8 and 2.2 mm and are disposed at an offset at a spacing transversely to a longitudinal extension by less than half the slot length.

7. (Amended) Sound shielding element according to Claim 1, wherein said panel is configured as a three-dimensionally shaped moulded part and is injection-moulded or pressed from synthetic material.

8. (Amended) Sound shielding element according to Claim 1, wherein said panel or layer is three-dimensionally shaped without cutting by stretching.

9. (Amended) Sound shielding element according to Claim 1, wherein said panel or layer is deep-drawn from a planar plate, board, tape, strip or sheet.

10. (Amended) Sound shielding element according to Claim 7, wherein said moulded part presents a thickness between 0.05 and 4 mm, particularly between 0.2 and 1 mm.

11. (Amended) Sound shielding element according to Claim 10, wherein said panel or layer is provided with said perforations in a sieve-like or raster-like form.

12. (Amended) Sound shielding element according to Claim 1, wherein said panel or layer comprises aluminium, steel sheet, ceramic or a highly temperature-resistant synthetic material.

13. (Amended) Sound shielding element according to Claim 1, wherein said panel or layer is used as a covering layer on a sound-absorbing layer including a nonwoven fabric or foamed material or on a chamber-type or membrane-type absorber, and presents the hole/surface ratio between 3 and 10 % and an average hole diameter between 0.1 and 0.5 mm.

14. (Amended) Sound shielding element according to Claim 1, wherein said element is used as an injection-moulded operating element.

15. (Amended) Sound shielding element according to Claim 1, wherein said element is used as roof lining in a passenger compartment of motor vehicles.

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25. (Amended) Sound shielding element according to Claim 1, wherein said element is a luggage trunk cover.

26. (Amended) Sound shielding element according to Claim 1, wherein said element is a thermal shielding element.

27. (Amended) Sound shielding element according to Claim 1, wherein said element is a covering layer on honey-comb composite panels.

28. (Amended) Sound shielding element according to Claim 1, wherein at least two said panels are spaced from each other and disposed in a substantially parallel arrangement.

29. (Amended) Method of producing a sound shielding element for protection from the propagation of sound from a noise area of a room or space into a neighbouring room or space, the sound shielding element including at least one panel or layer and a plurality of small perforations formed in said at least one panel or layer, wherein an average diameter or width of said perforations ranges between 0.001 and 2mm and a hole/surface ratio ranges between 0.001 and 20 %, the method comprising forming said panel or layer by fusing or bonding particles or fibers.

30. (Amended) Method of producing a sound shielding element according to Claim 29, wherein said panel or layer is produced by weaving threads formed of fibers.

31. (Amended) Method of producing a sound shielding element according to Claim 29, wherein said panel is produced by impregnating a textile tissue with a thermoplastic material and molding into a three-dimensional shape.

32. (Amended) Method of producing a sound shielding element according to Claim 29, wherein said plurality of perforations are produced by electric discharges using an electric arc through said panel or layer.

33 (Amended) Method of producing a sound shielding element according to Claim 29, wherein said plurality of perforations are produced by bombardment of said panel or layer with particles.

34. (Amended) Method of producing a sound shielding element according to Claim 29, wherein said plurality of perforations are produced by means of a needle or cutter blocks.

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Please enter the following newly added claim:

35. (Newly Added) Method according to Claim 34, wherein distortions of said perforation in said panel or layer are closed by pressing by shaping rollers.